

## Journey through China

### China awakens from sleepy hollow

Special to The Star

MODERNIZATION HAS awakened China. Aerobatics, VCR clubs, ham radio associations, secretarial schools and modeling classes have emerged in major cities. Such are just random signs of myriad things that were unheard of only a few years ago. China's modernization has leapt toward the future world. But its hindleg is still solidly implanted in the sleepy hollow.

Every morning, Beijing wakes to the roar of subway trains laden with passengers rushing toward work. For down south in China's heartland province of Hunan, the Wangcun village awakens to the crows of roosters.

Subtitled by water and mountains, Wangcun is a one-lane village of about 4,000 residents. It extends along a 4-kilometre

This article is part of a series of stories looking at China's modernization by exploring the contemporary social and cultural trends which are occurring due to economic and political reform. The series was written by Chinese journalist Xu Yaping, and American photo journalist, Don Habib after three months of travel. Interviews, and research in China.

slope marked by a butcher's shop and a few daily necessity stalls, which form the village's major business after rice and tea. Electric wires pass through, but water-wheel grinders, manual plowing and threshing, and straw-bale fertilizers are primary farming methods. Small wooden "sempans" and ox-carts provide communication with the outside world together with one telephone-line and a few tractors.

Wangcun is among the many Chinese villages that have retained a lifestyle more identical with ancient times. Families have lived here for hundreds of years but, due to illiteracy in the past, no record was available to trace the village history. Tales of ancient ages are carried mouth to mouth as moral teaching. Most households feature a wood stove dug into the earthen floor, baskets of cayenne pepper, racks of noodles, and tea seeds

being dried at the threshold for oil extracting.

Most villagers in Wangcun wear rain capes plaited with pine needles and reed leaves; they beat their laundry clean on the rocks in the streams using no soap; they store their foods in canvas where some locals still re-

#### Part III

side. They believe in no god or Buddha but are extremely ghost-fearing.

Marital rituals mark sublime moments of cultural life for the entire village. Unlike most other rural areas in China, the locals have no match-maker. On holidays young women and men sing songs to mock each other before the tone changes to romantic courting ballads. The villagers who belong to the Miao ethnic group have followed the ancient wedding ritual of "eloping." No ceremony is held until the first child is born.

At the first cry of the baby, fireworks rend the air and the village sparks to life. Dowries laden with furniture and embroidered quilts are displayed in the lane. Incense and candles are burnt while the couple kowtows to heaven and earth and then to their parents. A 10-course wedding feast, with 700 or more relatives from the bride's sisters to the groom's uncle's wife's cousins in attendance, lasts two to three days.

"Ceremonies could be much more elaborate, and there are more village festivals than we can afford," says Zhang Minzhu, director of the tourism bureau of the local Jishou prefecture.

Zhang says the village used to hold a "ghost-avoiding" festival on the third day of the fifth month on the lunar calendar. The feat of cattle are bound before families go to hide in caves where they fast all day. At night, they dare not toss in their sleep as in other provinces have prepared on barren land and bought airplanes.

Wangcun's village heads say that geographic conditions have a limited development of local economy. But they are making plans to develop tourism to utilize the breath-taking cliffs and the winding Mengdong River, a landscape of tranquillity broken occasionally by monkey shrieks and jumping fish.

or await mosquitos for fear of making noise and alerting the ghosts.

"Things like that are superstitious and may not be revived," Zhang says. "But economic improvement may bring a lot of the traditions back."

As a consequence of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), traditions and customs were ravaged and ancient town squares vandalized where the festivals took place. With yearly per capita income snailing from 83 yuan to 200 yuan (US \$1=3.70 yuan) over the last nine years, cultural revival relies on the success of local economy.

Houses are being repaired and paintings of ancient heroes are posted on front gates as door gods. However, legends most popular with Wangcun villagers are not so much how door god Liubai fought. Once 1,700 hundred years ago, but now vill-

Wangcun was known to landscape artists only, but word of its beauty has spread fast and an increasing number of domestic tourists are vacationing here," Zhang says. Both private and government-run inns have been built. Three-table restaurants featuring rice "tofu" and fish caught from the restaurant's balcony are turning a modest profit. At the same time modern staples are encroaching upon the antiquity of Wangcun. Beer cans, barber shops equipped with blow dryers, calendar portraits of Brooks Shields, and a few washing machines dot the shop facades along the cobblestone lane.

These emblems of the modernization drive have trickled down into Wangcun. But they are not yet a reality of the village life. Most residents are just window shoppers of consumer goods. They wear what they weave on the family loom; eat what they grow; listen to local operas instead of pop music, and drink fiery sorghum spirit rather than canned beer. They look forward to tourists and their yuans; but only a few have traveled to a city like Jishou, 98 kilometres away. Most villagers have not heard of Ronald Reagan, no family cars or any cuisines other than their hot-peppery everyday meals.

Most flavours of the urban life are yet beyond Wangcun, but curiosity is aroused. Farmers



A farmer in Wangcun utilizes a basic mode of transportation to carry a load of hay down from the mountain

are dreaming of the day that mechanized tillage as they sit on the furrow smoking a pipe. Teen-agers are more willing to spend money on a pair of shiny leather shoes than on a customary blue turban.

Most families are hoping to get television sets, sewing machines, and cassette recorders. But the absolute priority is building a home with balconies hanging over the stream and painted flying saucers. They save all their money for this, choosing to own an extra empty room rather than



This Wangcun farmer says he dreams of the day when a tractor will do the work and he can sit back and smoke his pipe

# THE JERUSALEM STAR

Political, economic and social review

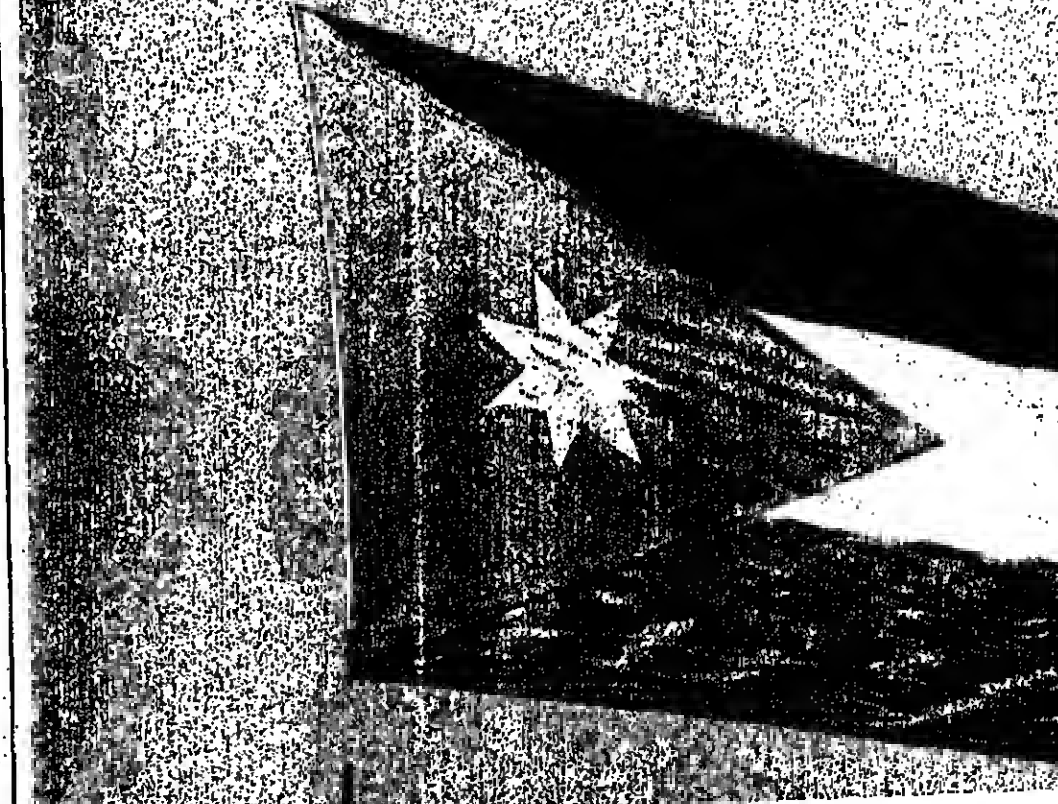
Volume 6 Number 35

جروال ستر اسبوعية سياسية، تصدر عن الشركة الاردنية للمصاحفة والنشر «الدستور»

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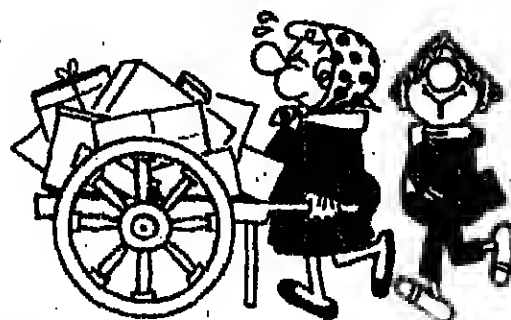
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Can we bring the smile to those children's faces?



## Helping the mentally retarded fit into society

Jordan, Sweden rehabilitate the disabled children

By Diane C. Chlingwa  
Star Staff Writer

THE OVERALL improvement of scientific knowledge and modern technology during this last century has, among other things, improved the overall level of health throughout the world. On the average, people can now live longer as more and more diseases became controlled.

However, it is sad to note that even with the increase of technology which combats old and new illnesses, our physical and mental health is still often impaired through disadvantaged social conditions, harmful habits, lack of exercise, and excessive stress. As individuals, as families and as communities, we can take positive steps towards promoting our mental and social well-being in our effort to create a more productive life for ourselves and those around us.

Unfortunately, there are millions of people today who do not have that freedom to lead a normal healthy life without the assistance of others around them. This is a problem faced by mentally retarded individuals throughout the world. Kai-Henrik Gustavsen, professor at University of Uppsala, states, "Mental retardation is a universal problem and the most frequently occurring handicap in children. For the individual concerned, independence is often an unattainable goal, and for the family, it is often a burden, often heavy loading on the stability and aspirations of both parents and children. For the society adds Gustavsen, "the misery experienced by many of those affected, the often negative attitudes towards mentally retarded people, and the great expenses of domiciliary care, of special programmes in education and training, of clinical diagnosis, of bio-medical treatment and of underachievement and underproductivity, constitute a real challenge."

According to Gustavsen, there remains no simple solution to the complex problems of mental retardation and therefore, prevention must clearly be given high priority and a strong obligation to do everything possible to



help mentally retarded people to realize their full potential.

In the case of Jordan, some institutions have been set up to try and provide mentally retarded individuals with the education and skills that can enable them to function within the framework of the society without having to depend on others for everything.

Among the various institutions that have been set up for the handicapped in the country is the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (SOIR). Based on the conviction that "every child can learn," SOIR started its services in Jordan 20 years ago with the aim of opening new opportunities for education, training and care of handicapped children and youth.

Today SOIR offers services and facilities to some 150 children, teenagers and adults, the majority of whom are severely handicapped, from all across Jordan. Of the services and facilities provided by the 110 staff members working at SOIR, now located in Swedia, a carehome for some 80 severely retarded children has been set up. The carehome offers residential care and training programmes based upon observations and evaluations undertaken by a team con-

sisting of special teachers, caretakers, physiotherapists, a registered staff nurse and a social worker. Programmes set up include primary Activities of Daily Life (ADL) such as eating, dressing and undressing, toilet and personal hygiene training. Other programmes include training in personal contact, body awareness, communication and various forms of mobility including walk-training.

SOIR or the "Swedish Home" as it is popularly referred to also has a pre-school which offers pre-school activities to three groups of seven to nine children. Activities offered include training in elementary skills such as eating, dressing and personal hygiene and physiotherapy when required.

A training school open to children with severe mental retardation in combination with other disabilities and living at the Carehome, and external students with similar backgrounds has also been set up. This school emphasizes helping the child, despite his/her severe degree of retardation, to seek stimuli and to organize his experiences.

"We try to make them understand what words mean," according to Mr. Angelo Jayekoddy, director of SOIR. "When words

begin to mean something, say like washing time, eating time, bathing time, the world is opened up more to the child and at the same time this child will overcome his fears."

The training school at SOIR is unique in Jordan in that it is the only home where severely mentally retarded children with multiple handicaps are accepted and are able to receive special education, individual training combined with physiotherapy.

"The goals of the special school, as well as in all the services offered by the SOIR, are to train the handicapped to lead as far as possible, a normal life in his/her own society with an understanding of day-to-day life and hopefully in the future as an adult, be able to cope with the basic essentials of life despite his/her handicap," stated Jayekoddy.

By creating a belief and confidence within them and treating them with respect, our students are able to overcome their handicap through the skills that we teach them."

Over the years, SOIR has worked hard at developing and establishing follow-up programmes for its students once they reach the age of 16. These programmes are operated in the

Home's Vocational Training Centre and sheltered workshops. Subjects taught to the students include reading, writing, mathematics and home sciences. Other courses on skills taught are work with clay and pottery, weaving, sewing, and basket-weaving, woodwork and carpentry. According to Jayekoddy, SOIR provides them with vocational training skills which they can use in their adult years as it is important for them to be productive in society.

Jayekoddy stated that, it is believed there has been a steady increase in the number of mentally retarded children in Jordan over the years. This, he adds, is due to a certain positive effect in this country. "Health Services offered in this country during the last 10 years have improved," stated Jayekoddy. "There are more maternity clinics and health care services for children which means that the many severely mentally retarded children who are born now are living through their first years. Ten years ago, a large number of mentally retarded children died within their first year whereas now they are surviving hence increasing in number and creating a need for more services."

So with more mentally retarded individuals surviving, there has become an even greater need in the country to provide and open more jobs to the trained mentally retarded individuals.

"When you have put in eight years of very good work in teaching, educating and looking after children, it seems a waste to stop it there," said Jayekoddy. "It means life for these children have learnt well and at the same time all year and the good money goes down the drain."

So again, in an attempt to assist the mentally retarded on a long-term basis, services depending on the children's age, needs at that particular time have continued to increase not only at the "Swedish Home" but also at the other set up for the mentally retarded throughout Jordan.

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21 APRIL 1988



Organizers of the workshop on the rehabilitation of the handicapped read the recommendations on Saturday

## Jordanian, Swedish workshop recommends practical steps to help handicapped

By a star staff writer

THE JORDANIAN — Swedish Workshop on Child Health Care and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped, which opened in Amman on 13 April and continued for three days, culminated in a decision to form a Swedish - Jordanian Medical Society. The Society will work on promoting the exchange of know-how and experience in medicine between Jordan and Sweden with the objective of giving a lasting contribution to the development of Health Care in Jordan.

The workshop, organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development and the Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Swedish Embassy, in Amman, the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief, and the Radda Barnen Institute of Child Health Care and Development reviewed the present situation of handicapped children and adults, and discussed their urgent needs, priorities and methods of implementation.

Three workshops were conducted with participating professors from Sweden and Jordan, the first was on "Social Legislation for the Handicapped," the second on Behaviour Problems Among the Handicapped Children," and the third on "The Services of Adult Handicapped."

A committee reviewed the Jordanian Constitution and concluded that there is an urgent need to enact a special law for the handicapped to preserve their rights, and especially that: — Services for the handicapped should be made accessible and encouraged.

— Services should be available free whenever it is possible. — Personal and group equipment and material needed should be tax-free and special care should be given to handicapped trainers.

Another committee pointed out the behaviour problems of handicapped children, including autistic shyness, aggressiveness and sexual problems. The committee recommended the following: — Every special centre should have a psychologist to help handicapped children.

— Workshops should be held for staff working in centres to exchange experiences and knowledge on the subject. — Circulation of information is essential especially for teachers, parents, and specialists dealing with handicapped children through the media, periodic

and general meetings. — A complete team, including a psychologist, a social worker, a psychiatrist, paediatrician, an educationalist and a specialist in social behaviour should supervise handicapped children.

On the services rendered to adult handicapped the third committee recommended the following: — The establishment of assessment centres where disabled can undergo evaluation on their suitability for vocational training and preparation prior to training.

— Ongoing training courses for personnel in present centres and educational programmes for new staff in future centres. — Taking measures to change negative attitudes towards disabled in society and creating better handicapped awareness.

— Continuous studies of the labour market for the handicapped and ensure for them suitable professions. — Establishing special centres for the care of the severely handicapped.

— Establishing sheltered workshops for unemployed handicapped persons. — Strong supportive action for increased recruitment of disabled persons in the government sector.



Handicapped are taught the basic skills of communication they need for daily life

## Bringing up children in healthy societies

By Frida Mdanat  
Star Staff Writer

CO-OPERATION in the social and medical fields between Jordan and Sweden started 20 years ago with the establishment of the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief (SOIR) followed by the opening of the Radda Barnen Institute two years ago.

This cooperation has progressively expanded over the years with the strong interest and continuous encouragement of their Royal Highnesses Prince Raed and Princess Majida, said Ambassador of Sweden to Jordan Lars Lennback.

He told The Star that the comprehensive discussions between the Jordanian and Swedish government during the seminar were extremely satisfying to both parties. He said that comparison of similar problems existing in both countries has been very fruitful, especially in the medical field. Sweden has its problems in the health care system, and so does Jordan, he said. Therefore the Seminar has been very beneficial from the Swedish point of view having given the chance for the Swedish Organizations to extend

their contacts in Jordan. It also allowed the Swedish delegation including four professors and one lawyer to learn enormously about the situation in Jordan.

"We in Sweden have handicapped. We try to get all the advice that we can have on how to help them and make the society accept them and be better prepared for their needs," he said.

The seminar, he added, gave participants from both countries the opportunity to exchange their experiences and learn from one another. He pointed out that Sweden has a much lower population growth than Jordan, which means fewer children. Nevertheless, he said, that the problems facing children are the same in both countries. "The issue is how to bring up our children in a good society where both the mother and child could have a healthy life," he added.

The ambassador stated that cooperation will still continue between the two countries, noting that an invitation has been extended to Dr. Mohammad Al-Sayour, undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development to visit Sweden where he will meet concerned people there to discuss a future Jordanian law for the handicapped.

## TENDER INVITATION

Natural Resources Authority invites the interested tenderers to submit their offers for tender no. 52/88 for Supplying FAOM AND AIR DRILLING EQUIPMENT. Closing date will be on Sunday May 29, 1988 1:00 p.m.

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THE JERUSALEM STAR 5



## 35 years of prosperous reign

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by the Egyptian President Hueni Mubarak and his wife, Friday attended a big military parade organized by the Jordanian Armed Forces on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne. The festival was opened with the national anthem of Jordan, and then a speech of the president of the festivities who paid tribute to King Hussein for his relentless efforts in developing the country. He also referred to the special attention given by His Majesty to the Armed Forces saying that the continued care which the King gives to the armed forces has ever been limitless, so that the army could defend our home and the honour of the nation.

Among the many corps of the Armed Forces which participated in the parade was the Chivalry and Drummers Corps, the Armed Forces Musical Band, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Falcons, and the Special Forces.

Attending the parade was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai, and a number of senior military and civil officials.



His Majesty King Hussein, President Hueni Mubarak, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai, and Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al-Qasbi at the beginning of the parade

Units of the Armed Forces display their power



Prince Hassan



Mr. Suski Onu

## Israeli withdrawal essential to peace

### says Japanese Foreign Minister

TOKYO — Japanese Foreign Minister, Suski Onu has welcomed the visit of his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Japan, and expressed hope that the visit would lead to further development of co-operation between the two countries in the various fields.

Speaking to a Jordanian press delegation currently visiting Japan, Mr. Onu expressed concern about the situation in the Middle East, saying that his country believes that a just and durable peace in the region cannot be achieved before a total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories, occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and before recognition of the Palestinian people right to self-determination.

In reply to a question on Japan's position on the current Palestinian uprising in occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, the Japanese Foreign Minister condemned the repressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He pointed out that the Japanese government has summoned the Israeli Ambassador to Japan twice to inform him that his government should abide by the Geneva Conventions as regarding the protection of civilians in times of war.

Mr. Onu said his government is in no position to directly mediate between Iraq and

Iran in order to put an end to the war. He, however, said that Japan, as a member of the seven industrialized countries, will continue to work towards creating a suitable atmosphere for finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath arrived in Japan Tuesday for a several-day visit during which Prince Hassan would meet with Japanese officials on various issues of mutual concern. His Highness' visit coincides with the convening of the Jordanian-Japanese seminar on involvement.

Prince Hassan on Tuesday received the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Japan and informed them of the latest developments in the Middle East, and the results of the Amman Secretary of State, George Shultz's tour of the area. His Highness stressed that a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be achieved through a UN sponsored international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Prince Hassan stressed the necessity of continuing coordination among all Arab states so that to maintain the unified Arab stand reached during Amman Arab Summit.

## Making it better by bus

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

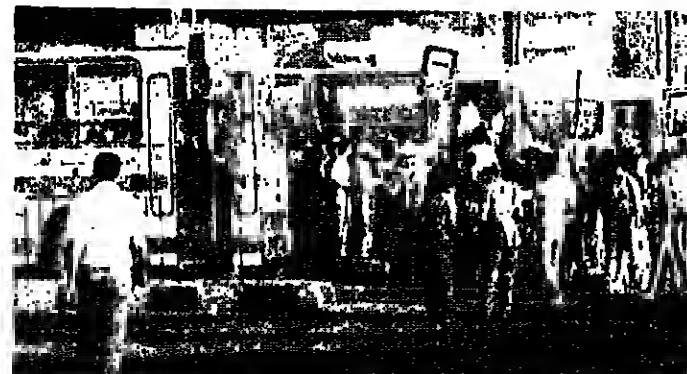
AMMAN RESIDENTS should soon be able to catch a bus in Zarqa and travel all the way to Sixth Circle without the inconvenience and time wasting now involved in changing from one bus route to another.

Transport consultant Anthony Shephard believes that the key to attracting customers to the public transport system is to offer better services which include longer routes and fewer changeovers. Mr. Shephard has now produced four reports on the Amman transport system and is recommending a radical re-organization of public and private bus networks and of the service taxi system that should improve financial returns in all sectors while offering a service tailored more closely to the needs of the modern city.

His recommendations have been accepted by the government and are now awaiting the necessary administrative measures for their implementation. The basis of Mr. Shephard's proposals is the replacement of the present maze of small and poorly connected bus and service routes with a Combined Route Network (CRN). This will involve:

- Concentrating the 250 large Public Transport Corporation (PTC) buses into nine long routes crossing the city and providing town to town travel from, for example, Salt and Madaba.
- Leaving the private routes operated by around 100 large buses on their town to town routes by lengthening the routes to penetrate areas of Amman.
- Consolidating some 80 short routes within Amman by the PTC with 50 service routes to form longer routes through the city. Some 100 existing routes would be reduced to 30 consolidated routes which would be serviced by minibuses rather than service taxis.

Mr. Shephard, who has been dubbed "Minibus Shephard" during his long career as an international transport consultant, sees the introduction of minibuses as a crucial component in the success of his programme. He has high regard for the contribution now made to the transport system by the service but says their drivers



Travelling by bus: No more a waste of time

could offer a better, more comfortable service and make more money if they converted to using minibuses.

Mr. Shephard estimates that around half of the service are now owner/driver and half belong to owners of one or more cars who rent them out to drivers. The new system should not jeopardize the jobs of the service drivers as every three service would be replaced by one minibus with a passenger capacity of 14 and 1200 minibuses could then operate 14 hours daily divided into three shifts. The minibuses would be cheaper to run as they use diesel fuel.

Even without the introduction of the minibuses the new system will be an improvement on the existing one as it will be fitted to the Amman of today rather than to the city of 20 years ago but Mr. Shephard is concerned that it would require a lot more services to handle the heavier concentration of passengers on the new routes and this would add to the traffic congestion.

Once the introduction of the CRN is officially underway it will take some months for its full implementation. Mr. Shephard warns that it is a complex system and some teething troubles should be expected but he sees no reason why these should be any worse in Amman than anywhere else.

In his studies on Amman, which were funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Mr. Shephard has covered the topics of privatization in Jordan, PTC prospects for privatization, New Route Network and PTC Privatization. Plan and he estimates that implementation of his recommendations would transform

## Economics & political cost

Does pride have a cost? How much? The economic craze in the theory of human capital puts equations to everything, and the fast changes in the computer makes everything — well almost everything — measurable. Crime has now its models. Those measure the risk of committing a crime as seen by the potential culprit. He takes into consideration the probability of getting caught, the cost of the operation, the forgone income should he be caught and jailed and compares all of those to the expected return. Should the probable return exceed the probable cost, he may decide to go ahead with his scheme.

Yet, how do you measure the cost/benefit ratio if you are talking about national pride? The question becomes much trickier when you want to compare national costs with national benefits.

First of all there is the issue of cost. A country may incur huge defence costs but it may never plunge into a war. In this case, the cost may be

## Economic Adhocracy

By

Jawad

Anani



measured, but the return is not readily known. Preparedness may force your enemy to reconsider its plans to attack. Here the benefit, or the return to military expenditure is implicit in the gain embodied in keeping the country safe and going.

Second, there is the element of time. The cost of building armed forces is immediately recognizable. The benefit on the other hand may extend for generations to come. In this case, the cost borne by one generation looks big in the eyes of this generation, but the return should be computed over a long period.

Thus the present value of return exceeds the present value of costs if we adopt different periods for discounting the expected flows of each.

When we talk of national pride, we talk of immediate costs and threats via a long term benefits. The art of political pressure is to make you see success to your values by making your current costs much greater than the ability to cope with them regardless of the size of expected returns.

The people in the West Bank and Gaza have decided

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## Expected Drop in banks profits

By Dine Al-Zorba  
Star Staff Writer

Banks started to consider new deposits in Jordanian dinar more of a burden than a source of income and they are reluctant at the same time to lower interest rates on the deposits of their customers except for symbolic percentages in order not to lose these customers. The expected result is considerable drop in profits in the banking sector in 1988.

There is a relatively high liquidity within the banking sector, said Mr. Jawad Hadid, deputy director of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank. However, the focus on this liquidity derives from the inability of the local banks to expand heavily in lending activities for three main reasons, said Mr. Hadid: the first is

the recessionary period during which it is normal that demands on loans become weaker; second, during periods of economic sluggishness, banks become more selective in extending their credit facilities to only well established businesses and borrowers with good track and hence lending opportunities become more restrictive; third, Mr. Hadid added that the present structure of interest rates whereby the Central Bank of Jordan, does not allow banks to lead to a variety of customers with different credit ratings and different durations of loans.

According to Mr. Hadid, customers who are newcomers to the market should pay higher interest rates than the ceiling set by the Central Bank to cover risks usually associated with start up situations in the business circles. He added that higher ceilings would thus allow possibly a large portion of candidate borrowers to count on facilities available by local banking sectors.

This is a warning factor, said Mr. Hadid, to banks management. Something should happen in the policies governing interest rates to remedy the present situation.

Policy of the interest rates is in the hands of the government, represented by the Central Bank of Jordan, he said, and it is the only authority that could make them more flexible.

He suggested some different policies that could be followed for example such as raising the existing ceiling of interest rates, or introducing some kinds of controlled floating of exchange and interest rates of the Jordanian



Jawad Hadid

dinar to reflect market forces as this alone could stop any possible drain on the official foreign currency reserves and it would gradually correct deficits in the balance payment and enhance the ability of the government to survive its foreign debts.

## Canadians sign for dams study

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

HYDRO-QUEBEC LTD. of Montreal has signed a contract with the Water Authority and the Ministry of Planning to provide consulting and design services for a project to build a number of small dams in Jordan's desert areas. The work will be funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under its programme for industrial co-operation with Jordan. Cumulus of Canada is already carrying out a feasibility study for shale burning on behalf of the Jordan Electricity Authority under the same programme.

Canadian Embassy Commercial Attache Guillermo Ryschinski says that Canada has had good results in developing techniques for grinding oil shale and feeding it directly into a boiler to provide power as an alternative to the usual technique for handling oil shale which involves a more complicated and expensive process of retorting. The company is due to present its report on the burning technique by the middle of this year.

Preparations are also underway for a third programme, this time in the agricultural field. Agri-development will be working with the Jordan Co-operative Organization (JCO) and the Jordanian

University of Science and Technology (JUST) on a programme to boost lentil production through the introduction of better varieties, techniques, and most importantly better harvesting methods. Lentil production is declining in recent years because of the shortage of labour for harvesting.

In contrast to the Jordanian situation farmers in Manitoba and South West Saskatchewan have been boosting their production, encouraged by the development of a new harvester which seems to have solved the technical problems that have been a barrier to lentil harvesting everywhere.

The lentil programme will begin with a seminar in May during which Canadian technical specialists will meet with their Jordanian counterparts to review the situation here and develop a programme for Jordanian conditions.

The technical aid programmes are just one of three components in Canada's aid to Jordan. Canada is to provide C\$3 million annually for the five years in bi-lateral aid for equipment procurement and under an institutional co-operation programme around one to one and a half million Canadian dollars will go to programmes including co-

## Arabs urged to improve agriculture

ABU DHABI, (OPECNA) — Unless more efforts are made to improve the agricultural sector in the Arab World, the region may have to spend around 45 billion dollars on food imports by the year 2000, more than double the current level of 20 billion, a report by the Arab League warns.

It says that there is also a desperate need for greater efforts to improve available agricultural techniques.

The report, prepared in co-operation with the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), also calls on Arab governments to adopt practical measures aimed at industrialization and self-sufficiency in foodstuffs.

Deploing the protectionist

measures by industrialized countries, the report says only those nations benefited from the lower oil prices in 1988.

The drop in commodity prices are accompanied by protectionist policies in the industrialized countries which are not limited to tariffs, but include production and export subsidies as well, it says, adding that the impact of those measures are influencing the ability of developing countries to export their goods.

The report, made available to OPECNA, notes that the flow of money from advanced to developing countries in 1988 was less than half the levels in 1981.

The report says that this situation was a result of the lower lending levels by Western countries despite a drop in prices of oil and other commodities.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

Date: 17/4/1988  
Loan No.: 2587 JO  
Tender No.: (1/G2/88)

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Second Urban Development Project (UNDP2) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Goods at Naqab Schools/ Marka - Amman.

2. The Urban Development Department of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment (UDD) now invites sealed bids from bidders whom their countries are members in the World Bank, Switzerland, and China, Taiwan for the supply of

Tender No.	Category No.	Description
1/G2/88	1	General furniture
	2	Physics equipment & general science
	3	Chemistry equipment & chemicals
	4	Office equipment
	5	Women vocational education
	6	Lab furniture
	7	General vocational W/shop
	8	Biology lab
	9	Audio visual aids
	10	Sports equipment

3. Eligible bidders interested in any category may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the offices of: Urban Development Department, UDD Marka Housing Project.

Amman - Jordan  
Telex No.: 22249 UDD JO  
Tel. No.: 899361/62/63  
P.O. Box: 927198

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 50.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than JD 3,000, and must be delivered to the Director General, UDD, P.O. Box 927198 Amman - Jordan on or before 12:00 noon local time. On June 15, 1988.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 noon local time, on June 15, 1988 at the offices of UDD/Marka Housing Project - Amman.

Director General







## Euro - Deposit Rates

	\$	DEM	LIT	FF	DFL	SF	YEN	Sterling Pound
1 M	7	33/18	9 5/8	8	4	2	3 3/4	8 1/18
2 M	7 1/10	3 1/4	10 5/8	0 1/4	4	2 1/16	3 13/18	7 15/16
3 M	7 3/10	3 1/4	10 7/8	8 5/16	4	2 1/16	3 7/8	7 15/16
6 M	7 5/16	3 3/8	11	8 1/2	4 1/10	2 5/16	4	8
9 M	7 5/8	3 1/2	11 1/8	8 9/16	4 3/10	2 9/16	4 1/18	8 1/8
1 Year	7 13/10	3 9/16	11 1/4	8 11/16	4 1/4	2 3/4	4 1/8	8 3/8
2 Years	8 1/8	4					9 M	8 1/2
3 Years	8 1/2	4 1/2					1 Year	8 11/18
4 Years	8 3/4	4 7/8						
5 Years	9	5 1/8						

Source: Finance and Credit Corp. (F.C.C.) Amman

## Arab Deposit Rates

	Saudi Riyal	Kuwaiti Dinar	Bahraini Dinar	U.A.E. Dirham
1 MTH	6 13/16-11/16	0-5 1/2	6 5/8-5 7/8	8 3/4-3/8
2 MTH	6 7/10-3/4	6-5 1/2	6 5/8-5 7/8	6 7/8-1/2
3 MTH	6 15/16-13/16	6-5 1/2	6 5/8-5 7/8	7-0 5/10
6 MTH	7 5/10-1/8	6 1/4-5 3/4	6 1/4-0	1 1/8-0 3/4
1 Yr	7 1/10-7/10	0 1/4-5 3/4	7 1/4-0 1/2	1 5/8-1/11

Source: Arab Bank Ltd., O.H.U., Bahrain, Spot 10.4.88

## Dollar - Gold

LONDON IAP - Dollar rates in European Trading.

	Monday 18.4.88	Friday 15.4.88	Monday 11.5.88
DEM	1.6615	1.6605	1.6655
SFR	1.3045	1.3020	1.3063
FF	5.6410	5.6325	5.7145
DFL	1.8630	1.8630	1.8910
LIT	1.234 3/7	1.232 5/10	1.249 5/10
CAS	1.3322	1.3335	1.2990
YEN	124.42	124.13	126.70
C	1.9015	1.9080	1.8560
GOLD	169.25	166.25	149.5
SILVER	6.49	6.49	6.42

## Exchange Rates

JO (Fila)

	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
S. Riyal	91.4	92.4	S	332.9
L. Lira	0.08	0.91	E	628.3
S. Lira	7.00	7.5	DEM	200.6
L. Dinar	155	155	SFR	242.6
K. Dinar	1250	1260	FRF	59.1
E. Pound	150	150	Yen 100	268.4
UAEDir	93.25	94.25	OFL	179
O. Riyal	94.1	95.1	SKR	56.9
O. Riyal	888	898	Lit 100	27.5
B. Dinar	900	910	BFC10	95.9

## Corporate Scene

## Rice packing goes local

Special to The Star

AMMAN (Star) — A joint venture of Amman Resources and the United States has signed a contract with the Aqaba Ports Corporation to build a rice processing and packing plant in Aqaba. The two companies have contracted to build the \$5-7 million plant and run it for fifteen years with an option for a further extension of the contract. Initial capacity at the plant will be 150,000 tonnes annually. The company will be aiming for markets in Iraq, Jordan and Northern Saudi Arabia and is confident that it should be able to boost its sales to as much as 600,000 tonnes in the next few years. (PAG)

## Amman Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of 80 trading Companies at the Amman Financial Market, listed in the following order: 1-20 companies which gained, 21-40 companies which lost, and 41-80 companies which had no change in the price of their shares.

	Opening	Closing	Change
1. Jo. Nat. Bank	2.460	2.470	+0.010
2. The Housing Bank	1.870	1.880	+0.010
3. Jo. Fin. House	1.180	1.200	+0.020
4. Arab Life & Accident Ins.	1.000	1.010	+0.010
5. Arab Union Int. Ins.	.920	.840	-0.080
6. Livestock & Poultry	.780	.770	-0.010
7. Jo. Gulf R. Es. Inv. Corp.	.310	.320	+0.010
8. Jo. Cement Fact.	1.030	1.040	+0.010
9. Jo. Petroleum Ref.	7.010	7.020	+0.010
10. Ind. Com. & Agr.	1.330	1.340	+0.010
11. Arab Pharm. Mgtt.	1.900	1.830	-0.070
12. Jo. Worsted Mills	4.250	4.300	+0.050
13. Jo. Paper & Cardboard Fac.	3.000	3.090	+0.090
14. Arab Chemical Oatgent Ind.	3.800	3.850	+0.050
15. Arab Aluminium Ind.	1.720	1.750	+0.030
16. Nat. Steel	2.830	2.750	-0.080
17. Internat. Petro-Chem.	1.280	1.300	+0.020
18. Jo. Chem. Ind.	1.590	1.600	+0.010
19. Jo. Rock Wool	.520	.540	+0.020
20. Jo. Sulpho-Cham.	2.850	2.860	+0.010
21. Bank of Jordan	15.470	14.800	-0.670
22. Jo. Islamic Bank	1.850	1.840	-0.010
23. Arab Fin. Corp. Jo.	1.280	1.290	+0.010
24. Jo. Securitas Corp.	.830	.800	-0.030
25. Nat. Fin. Inv.	1.820	1.800	-0.020
26. Nat. Portolio Securitas	.730	.720	-0.010
27. Jerusalem Ins.	1.280	1.280	0.000
28. Yarmouk Ins. & Re-Ins.	1.080	1.080	0.000
29. Int. Contracting & Inv.	.210	.180	-0.030
30. Jo. Leasing Corp.	.800	.750	-0.050
31. Gen. Inv.	1.320	1.230	-0.090
32. Woolen Ind.	.850	.810	-0.040
33. Jo. Dairy	1.000	.980	-0.020
34. Jo. Glass Ind.	.880	.870	-0.010
35. Jo. Spin. & Weav.	.880	.830	-0.050
36. Arab Paper Converting & Tr.	.380	.330	-0.050
37. Universal Chem. Ind.	1.870	1.830	-0.040
38. Aladdin	1.350	1.340	-0.010
39. Jo. Ind. & Mach.	.880	.870	-0.010
40. Nat. Cable & Wire Mgtt.	.980	.980	0.000
41. Arab Bank	114.000	114.000	0.000
42. Jo. Gulf Bank	1.180	1.180	0.000
43. Arab Jo. Inv. Bank	2.100	2.100	0.000
44. Jo. Inv. & Fin. Corp.	1.870	1.870	0.000
45. Fin. & Cr. Corp.	.550	.550	0.000
46. R. Es. Inv. Co.	.380	.380	0.000
47. Darco	.420	.420	0.000
48. Inna For Inv. & Fin. Facility	.550	.550	0.000
49. Jo. Electricity	1.440	1.440	0.000
50. Dar Al-Sha'ar	.370	.370	0.000
51. Jo. Nat. Lines	.810	.810	0.000
52. Petra Projects	.850	.850	0.000
53. Jo. Praes/Al-Ra'i	3.500	3.500	0.000
54. Jo. Phosphate Mines	2.200	2.200	0.000
55. Jo. Tanning	1.950	1.850	-0.100
56. Jo. Ceramic Ind.	1.020	1.020	0.000
57. Jo. Pipe Mgtt.	1.140	1.140	0.000
58. Jo. Lima & Silic. Brick Ind.	.210	.210	0.000
59. Dar Al-Dawa	1.430	1.430	0.000
60. Jo. Wood Ind.	1.220	1.220	0.000

Source: A.B.L., O.B.U., Bahrain

## Gold In Jordan

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Tuesday 19 April 1988, were as follows:

18 ct ... JD 3.750  
24 ct ... JD 4.350  
24 ct ... JD 5.500

One Kilogramme (9999)  
JD 5,025

Quince ... JD 171.000  
(10 cm. x 31 gramme)

Rashadi Pound ... JD 32.500  
(Seven grammes)

Sterling Pound ... JD 36.500  
(Eight grammes)

Source: Yousef Abu Sara,  
Jewellers, Amman.

## Gold In London

LONDON (AP) — Late gold prices in US dollars per troy ounce:

London 459.25 Bid  
Zurich 458.50 Bid  
Hong Kong 467.98 Bid

## Spot Dollar

LONDON (AP) — Interbank spot dollar rates at London on 19 April 1988, were as follows:

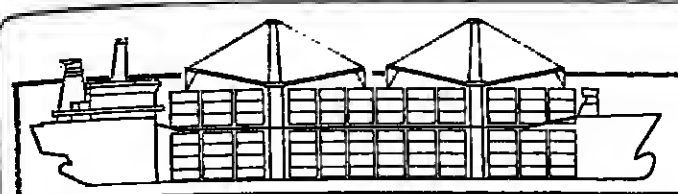
C 1.8935-48  
SAFR 1.3740-50  
LIT 1.234-1235  
DEM 5.6385-6425  
OEM 1.8812-19  
DFL 1.8830-40  
SFL 34.78-81  
DKR 6.3930-55  
NKR 6.1450-1550  
SKR 5.8480-8500  
YEN 124.27-37  
ARS 1.16840-80  
CAS 1.2315-25  
S.Pas 110.15-20  
F. Mark 3.9800-20  
G. Dsch 133.20-184.00

## Kuwait Financial Market

THE FOLLOWING is a list of the stock closing prices at Kuwait

Financial Market as quoted by Al-Anba' on 18 April 1988, compared with the previous closing.

Kwt. Nat. Bank	0.870	0
Gulf Bank	0.325	0
Comm. Bank	0.238	-0.002
Kwt. Ahl Bank	0.275	+0.005
Kwt. M.E. Bank	0.295	0
R.Es. Bank	0.370	-0.010
Baqen Bank	0.234	-0.002
Kwt. Fin. House	0.410	+0.005
United R.Es	0.116	0
Kwt. Projects	0.088	-0.001
Mobile Tele	0.355	-0.005
Non-Kuwait Companies		
Bahrain Int. Bank	0.087	0
Coast Inv.	0.078	-0.002
Arab Inv.	0.0039	-0.0005



## Vessels calling on Aqaba Port

## Amin Kavar &amp; Sons Co Red Sea Shipping Agency

SERVING AREA	NAME OF LINE	NAME OF VESSEL	ARRIVAL DATE
A - Romania (Conv.)	Navrom	Novaci	30-3-88
B - Black Sea (RO-RO)	SDP	Ruzhany	28-3-88
C - Australia (Cont. + Ro-Ro)	Gallic	A. Gorb	13-4-88
D - Yugoslavia + Med. (RO-RO + Conv.)	Jadranaka	Pharos	8-4-88
E - Far East (Conv. + Cont.)	PIL	A. Trader	10-4-88
F - GDR + North Continent + Valencia (Container)	D.S.R.	Mosor	25-4-88
G - Europe (RO-RO)	Huel	Kota Mutlari	8-4-88
H - Eastern Europe (Conv. + Cont.)	POL	Ganghang	17-4-88
I - Brazil (RO-RO + Conv.)	Kommor	Kota Benar	28-4-88
J - North America (Conv. + Cont.)	Ozala	Kota Ratu	2-5-88
K - Egypt + Red Sea	Kavar	Kota Jaya	2-5-88
L - China	Cooco	S. Jaehn	8-4-88
		Pritzweik	1-5-88
		Friate	10-4-88
		Huel Margerita	14-4-88
		Huel Traveller	8-5-88
		Zygmunt III Waza	29-3-88
		W.Lokialak	25-4-88
		Emdan	8-3-88
			T.S.
			T.S.
			T.S.
			29.3.88
			20-4-88
			12.4.88

## Arab Containers Services Co.

— R.M.S. Stephan J., Voyage No. 43, departing Venice 28 March, Ravenna 29 March, Lissasol 4 April, arriving Aqaba 8 April 1988.

— R.M.S. Laguna, Voyage No. 44, departing Venice 31 March, Ravenna 2 April, Lissasol 7 April, arriving Aqaba 11 April 1988.

— Thames, Trident Dusk, Voyage No. 4, departing Aqaba 7 April 1988.

— Thames, Trident Dusk, Voyage No. 5, departing Aqaba 7 April 1988.

— Thames, Captan Sea, Voyage No. 5, departing Aqaba 7 April 1988.

— Thames, Trident Eagle, Voyage No. 6 departing Brazilian ports 2 April, arriving Aqaba 12 May 1988.

— Thames, Eastern Wizenan, Voyage No. 7, departing Brazilian ports 13 May, arriving Aqaba 15 June 1988.

— Thames, Trident Dusk, Voyage No. 8, departing Brazilian ports 25 May, arriving Aqaba 30 July 1988.

— Thames, Trident Eagle, Voyage No. 9 departing Brazil 30 June arriving Aqaba 15 August 1988.

## Foreign companies

AMMAN (Star) — The following is a list of international firms, with a multitude of capabilities, wishing to establish export and import ties with Jordanian firms. Interested companies may initiate direct contact at their addresses accordingly:

• Oman Sayat - Serafatini, Kucukkeye Koll. St., Asretandi Cad., Surun Han K.3 N. 306, Sultanham Istanbul (night wear)

• Dama Hazir Glym Sanayi, Va Ticaret A.S. Izzatpaz Mah. Gurun Sok N.5 Silal - Istanbul (clothes)

• Delta Tekstil Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S., Yildiz Ayazma Sok. N. 12/128, Cavallari Topkap, Istanbul (night wear)

• Sami Pinto, Tehtakale Cad., Menasse Han N. 39, Istanbul (textiles)

• Jan Flem & Co., Oravika, 6017 AA Lesund, Norway (stationery)

• Alim Corp San. ve Ted. Ltd. St., Terakol Cafar Sok Dicu Han N. 42 Kat 2 (materials, machinery)

• Eryoglu Ins. Ticaret ve Sanayi A.S., Olyenolu Cad. Ercevik Han N. 306, Sultanahmet, Istanbul (textiles)

• Tale Ajans Advertising Agency Inc., Darulcaza Cad., Nadido Sok. N.24, 60270 Silal, Istanbul (variables)

• Ekimpart Ols. Ticaret A.S., Sunat Cad. Villa Iahani 8 Block K. 4 27 - 30, Nisantasi - Istanbul (toiles)

• Elektriken Elektrik Helzemleri, Taahhut ve Ticaret Ltd. St., Okumusca Cad., Gayebaycikmaz N.3, Karakoy - Istanbul (conditons)

• Ondaer Kagit Sanayi ve Ticaret, Muhurdar Cad. N. 49/1, Kadirbey - Istanbul (screp)

• Melazier Kibrit San. ve Tac. A.S., Naciibay AO. Mirtuk Iahani N. 86/4, Karakoy - Istanbul (potash, phosphata)

• Ditas Firoz ve Plastak San. ve Tac. A.S., Usuncarsal Cad. Gyyu, Korkmaz N. 105 K.1, Tanteakale, Istanbul (tooth-brushes, pins)

• Omar Siddiq Ahmad, Tatar 2217 Satic, 8d - Sudan (fruits, vegetables)

• Al Nahel Int'l (UK) Ltd. 69, Stanford House, East Tilbury, Essex RM11 9 YF, England (fruits, vegetables)

• Temak Tekstil Makina Akademi, Yildiz Posta Cad., Esenbul Apt. 23/31, Esentepe - Istanbul (raw plastic)

• Anglo Gulf Trading P.O. Box 4428, Dubai - UAE (variables)

## T. Gargour &amp; Fils

## Red Sea Shipping Agency

SERVING AREA	NAME OF LINE	NAME OF VESSEL	ARRIVAL DATE
A - Far East (Container + RORO + Conv.)	Mitral O.S.K. Lines	Phoenix Ace	20.4.88
		Comman II	25.04.88
		Titan	02.05.88
		Vega	03.05.88
		Eastern Splendour	15.05.88
		Kubor	28.05.88
		Agios Andraas	06.06.88
B - South Europe (Container + RORO + Conv.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd.	White Nile V.3/88	30.05.88
		Blue Nile V.4/88	08.05.88
		White Nile V.4/88	19.05.88
		Blue Nile V.5/88	09.06.88
C - U.S.A. (Container + RORO + Conv.)	Sudan Shipping Line Ltd	Khartoum V. 1/88	22.04.88
D - South Europe (Container + RORO)	Lloyd Triestino Line	Quino V.4/88	29.04.88
		Sallana V.5/88	23.05.88
		Quino V.5/88	14.06.88
E - U.S.A.-Canada-Australia (Bulk)	Gearbulk Line	Cosmos K.	22.04.88
		Almora S.	04.05.88
		Piccolo	12.05.00
		Conti Tradar	13.05.88
		Ebro	20.05.88
		Amoro Terza	22.05.88
		Chm. Fortina	24.05.88
		Quebec	25.05.88
		Rulk	26.05.88
		C. Navigatore	01.06.88
F - North Cont. (Conv.)	Gearbulk Line	Usta	02.05.88
		Seaguardian	07.06.88
G - Red Sea Ports (Conv.)	Pan Arab Line	Aldrial	25.04.88

## Jordan National Lines

— HITTEEN, in Aqaba 23 April, 3 May 1988. Dates R/V 27 02 - 03 05 88 2003 - 03 05 Duration R/V 66 days. SB 37 days.

— ELOIM JUNIOR III, in Aqaba 13 May 23 May 1988. Dates R/V 04 04 - 23 05 88 18 04 - 23 05 Duration R/V 50 days. SB 26 days.

The above three vessels are enroute Suez Canal. (Al-Kalamell discharging in Bremen 21 02 88. Hitten discharging Norddennum 23 03 88. 27 03 88. ELOIM Junior III discharging, Taragona 12 04 88. 13 04 88). Antwerp, Bremen, Sheerness, Suez Canal and finally Aqaba.

## Job Market-place

• The Arab Pharmaceutical Co. requires an accountant manager, graduate of an accredited university, with minimum 10 years' experience. Special attention will be given to applicants with English fluency, M.A. degree, and who passed C.P.A. Interested applicants may write to Financial Deputy General Manager, P.O. Box 42, Al-Sail.

• A Saudi Industrial company requires the following employees: 1) factories manager with experience and preferred to be a mechanical engineer; 2) sales manager, a university graduate; 3) accountant and financial manager, university graduate; 4) store manager; 5) maintenance engineer, mechanical; 6) computer systems programmer, university graduate; 7) sales engineer, university graduate; and 8) sales representative, college graduate. Industrial sales experience is preferred. All applicants should have good command of English and enough experience. Interested applicants may submit old documents, C.V. and recent photographs to the offices of the Jordanian Company for Office Equipment, opposite the British Middle East Bank, Assam Khobar Building, Jabbal Al-Hussein.

## Economic Adhocracy

Continued from page 7



## Window On the Philippines

### President Aquino visits ancestral village in China

President Corazon Aquino and her party arrived on 14 April at the coastal city of Xiamen, province of Fujian, in China, where her ancestors had come from. The Philippine President was on a three-day state visit to China which ended on 17 April.

On her arrival at Xiamen, she was greeted by the Philippine Ambassador to China, Mr. Alfonso T. Yuchengco, the Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines, Chen Songlin and by the provincial governor of Fujian, Wang Shaoqiao.

From the airport, the President immediately proceeded to her ancestral village of Hongjian where villagers waved yellow banners, Philippine and Chinese flags. She spent around an hour in the village and met distant uncle, Xu Yuanxing, now 73 years old. Xu Yuanxing has drawn up for President Aquino a family tree of the Aquino clan stretching back 700 years.

Aquino's great grandfather Xu Yuhuan left China in 1861 for the Philippines where he planted sugar cane. In her arrival speech, the President said the following in Chinese: "I came to China for reasons of state and reasons personal to me; for I am both head of state of my country and a daughter of this village."

Meanwhile, in Beijing she paid a courtesy call on Yang Shangkun, President of China. She also called on Premier Lin Peng. President Aquino's state visit to China was highlighted by her meeting with the Chinese strongman, Deng Xiaoping at the "Great Wall of the People" on 16 April.

### Labour situation in Philippines improves

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has described the Philippine labour situation as "one that is much better than last year because organized labour has become more pragmatic and more mature in handling problems."

According to the statistics gathered by ECOP for the first quarter of 1988, there were only 34 work stoppage cases compared to 147 during the same period in 1987. And in March this year, only nine labour

strikes were declared as against 52 for the same month in 1987.

However, barely three months after the last wage increase, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and the Labour Advisory Coordinating Council (LACC) have again urged the government for another daily wage increase of workers from peso 20.00 to peso 25.00.

### Philippines to get new loans from World Bank

According to Finance Secretary Dol Fonso, the Philippine government will get new loans of about US\$500 million from the World Bank this year. He said that US\$200 million will be approved for release in June. However, the release of this amount is tied to reforms being undertaken by the government on public-owned or controlled corporations.

The World Bank has required the Philippine government to submit a progress report on its privatization programme and reform undertaken to streamline operations of some government agencies.

The World Bank has required the Philippine government to submit a progress report on its privatization programme and reform undertaken to streamline operations of some government agencies.

The Philippines had earlier asked the World Bank for US\$150 million for allocation to the public corporate sector, but it later raised the amount to US\$200 million in order that the government could make its financing projects more effective. Meanwhile, officials of the United States Administration International Development (USAID) said that USAID has committed US\$250 million for the Philippines in 1988 to finance the country's agricultural projects. The bulk of the amount, however, will be allocated for technology transfer, credit programmes and resource development projects.

### Government unions cannot bargain for wage increases

Government unions will not be allowed to bargain for wage increases and other economic

### Edgardo claims more resonance with his ten-string guitar

CLASSICAL GUITARIST Mr. Edgardo Garchitorena has recently performed at the ABS and American School, playing classical pieces, folk songs and popular Arabic tunes. Like some other renowned masters in the world, he is also actively attempting to arrange a new repertoire for the guitar for the purpose of helping the instrument gain more popularity.

Edgardo says he feels that the guitar is not yet fully broken free from the emphasis of elementary strumming style playing. So he keeps on arranging popular songs it only to prove that the guitar can be played well in a formal solo recital.

Edgardo plays a ten-string guitar claiming a greater resonance which enables him to play or interpret more accurately



Edgardo Garchitorena shows his new guitar

transcriptions because of the four extra additional basses that sustain the tone. The guitar was designed for him by Mr. Dominguez Javier from the Philippines.

He is presently teaching guitar

at the Music World office located at the Fifth Circle Jabal Amman and at the Amman Baccalaureate School. Also, he is the leading guitarist in the newly-formed choir at the St. John Baptist de la Salle in Jabal Hussein church.

### Give us your news

This page of the newspaper has been arranged to provide a medium which any Filipino expatriate in Jordan may read about matters of interest both from home and from one another here in Jordan.

Keenly interested in broadening the local coverage, a member of the paper's editorial staff took the initiative of meeting with some members of the Filipino Community here in Amman recently.

As a result of this meeting, a committee in charge of gathering and receiving articles or news items from contributors has been set up.

You are therefore, invited to give your articles or news items which you may want to share with others, to one of the following persons:

- 1- Dr and Mrs Felicio Jineta - Tel: 686361 (H), 677642 (D)
- 2- Mrs Jean Jonaro - Tel: 644227, Romero's Restaurant, off 3rd Circle, near Egyptian Embassy, Jabal Amman
- 3- Mrs Jule Ramos Asfur - Tel: 610674.



88. PILIPINAS

The winners of the 88th Philippine beauty pageant held at the Araneta Coliseum: from left, Muriel Mural, 88th Pilipinas-Maja; Perilla Lempin, 88th Pilipinas-Univers; Antea Robles, 88th Pilipinas-International; and Marestone Daya, 88th Pilipinas-Tourism.

issues which would require appropriation of government funds. This new rule is in accordance with the new guidelines drafted by representatives from five government agencies, namely, the Department of Labour, Civil Service Commission, Department of Justice, Department of Finance and Budget Commission.

The guidelines state that appointments, promotions, distribution of work load, selection of personnel to attend seminars, study grants and upgrading of positions are sole management prerogatives which cannot be subject to negotiation with government unions. What will be negotiable are terms like scheduling of vacation leave, work assignment of pregnant employees, personnel growth and development, salary and protection facilities for handicapped personnel, family planning services for married women, recreational, social, ethical and cultural activities.

The guidelines will be signed by Labour Secretary Franklin Drilon, Civil Service Commissioner Patricio Sto. Tomas, Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordóñez, Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme and Budget Commissioner Caraga.

### Message to every Filipino worker

Jordan, you are advised, once again, to carry your residence and work permits at all times wherever you go. As you do not know when or where a police officer may stop you for inspection of your identity documents, it is best to have them in your possession always. Failure to produce these documents on the spot constitutes a violation of the law.

You could (a) be detained and deported if you are unemployed and (b) have your employer pay a penalty of JD 10 per month until he or she gives you such permits, if you are employed.

Should any one of you happen to be without these documents, you, do ask your employer to give them to you.

Should it prove difficult for your employer to appreciate the necessity of having such documents with you at all times and he refuses to give you the original, ask for a photocopy of each permit.

Should you fail to convince your employer, have him or her check this matter at the Philippine Embassy (Tel: 645161).

Should none of the above work, pick the phone, and report the matter to the Embassy. Give them the telephone number of your employer and let them speak on your behalf.

STAR

Telephone: 664153 / 686121

21 APRIL 1988

## New opera house for Cairo's starved art scene

One hundred and two years after Khedive Ismail built Cairo's first opera house, a two-day fire razed it to the ground. Last month, Japanese funding and expertise coupled with Egyptian manpower completed the Education and Culture Center in Gazira. Eger Colerene already call it their New Opera House. When it formally opens in October, culture fans expect the center to revitalize Cairo's starved arts scene. Recently a director has been appointed, Moscow-trained ballerina Magda Saleh. Speaking to James Bedding, In the April issue of Cairo Today, she said she is the world's first female opera-house director.

Q. How do you feel about being appointed director of the new opera house?

A. Just great — great for women, great for myself, and great for the opera house.

Q. Isn't it surprising that in Egypt such a job should go to a woman?

A. I suppose so, but if you think of it, women in Egypt have occupied many high positions in many areas. Look at the media, for instance — the heads of the channels are women, and the head of the TV too. My job is just a first anywhere, that's what makes it so unusual.

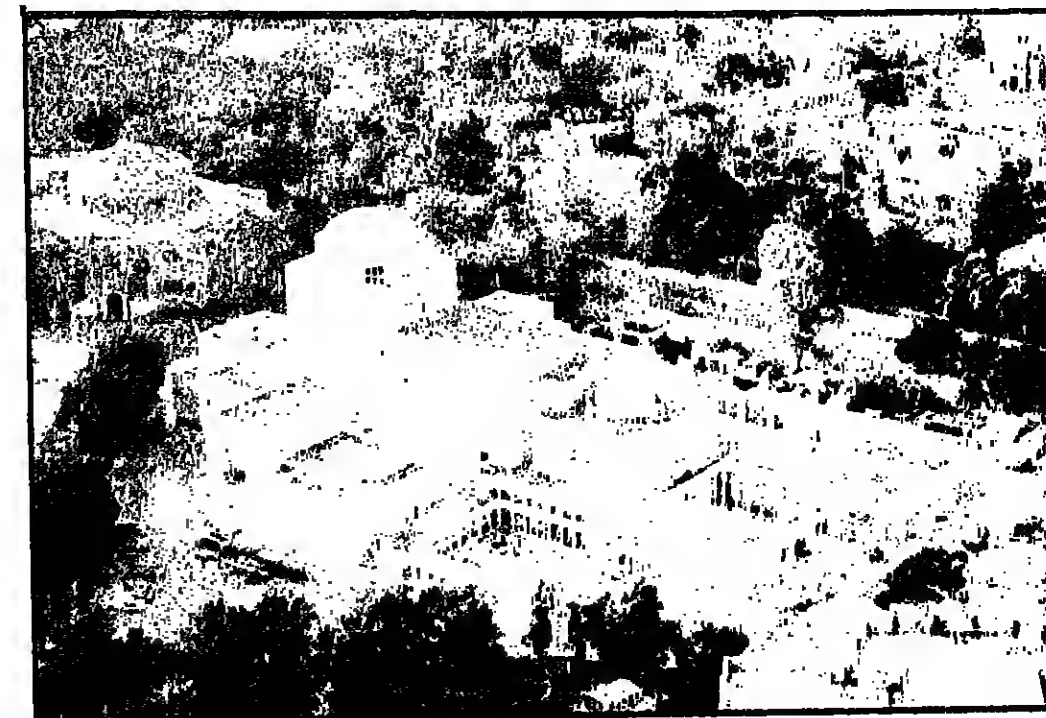
Q. Why was a former ballerina chosen to direct an opera house?

A. Well, opera in the wide sense involves ballet, music and opera as forms, but I suppose it is unusual for a former ballerina to be the director of such a large complex. It really isn't an opera house, but we will call it that simply because when our old opera house burned down we felt such a loss. But strictly speaking, as the Japanese call it, it's an education and culture complex.

Q. What was your first major public performance?

A. The opening night of the Cairo Ballet, about eight years after the school was started. The Soviet experts started the Cairo school in 1958 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. We had at the time a man of great vision, authority and culture, Dr. Sarwat Okasha, a bit of a legend to this day. So eight years after the school was opened the Ruselane put on the first full-length ballet. We always had our little concert performances which grew more ambitious as we grew, but this was a full-length four-act ballet called "The Fountain of Bekhtchalaer", which is one of the Soviet ballets dating from the 1930s. Its subject was eminently suitable to Egypt, based on historic fact and also on a poem by Pushkin. I remember I played one of the female leading roles; that of a Polish princess who is captured by a Tartar khan and subsequently murdered by his jealous favorite. He got rid of her and then he built a fountain of tears to weep for her because he was so sad to have lost her. The fountain actually exists in Bekhtchalaer in Crimea. That's why I said it was based on fact.

I had never seen a standing ovation in Egypt but for that performance we got one. The cast, from leading dancers all the way through the corps, was entirely Egyptian. The majority were students at the Ballet Institute



Photos by James Bedding

The nearly completed opera house gets a finishing polish



Magda Saleh: Ambitious plans for the new opera house.

elf the way down to the third year, except for five of us who had just graduated from the Bolshoi school. Some of the guys in the ballet scene had to be paid out. They were boys of 13 and 14 who were not fully developed, yet they had to look like wild Tartar warriors. There were a lot of costumes and make-up problems to make them look the part. The eldest, who was 16, played the khan and the leading male. And they were very good, they were so good as a matter of fact that our producer, Leonid Lavrovsky, former artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet, wanted to invite the leading male and female Egyptian dancers to perform with the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. Unfortunately, he died and that never came to be.

When we had the standing ovation, many people said "these can't possibly be Egyptians — they're Russians!" But Dr Okasha was so delighted that during the intermission he phoned President Nasser from the theater, the old Opera House, so at the end of the performance when he came to congratulate us he was able to tell us that President Nasser would attend the very next night. And when he did he was so pleased that he awarded Orders of Merit and Orders of the Republic to the leading dancers and to the Ruselane and Egyptians who were involved. So we became

the first dancers in the history of Egypt to be awarded medals or orders by the State. Considering the history of dance and its position in society in Egypt this was something quite exceptional.

Q. When was the cultural scene in Egypt at its liveliest in modern times?

A. There has been a very active cultural life in Cairo, ever since the Khedive built the Opera House in 1869. The high point was in the '60s and early '70s. The credit for that goes to the unique Minister of Culture, Dr. Sarwat Okasha. What you see today — even if it's vestigial —

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is mainly what he inherited.

Q. How long did you dance?

A. As a dancer, my career didn't really last very long. A ballerina's career is brief at best and mine was briefer than most, because I actually only danced 6 years.

Q. Why did you give up?

A. One of the main reasons was that the Cairo Opera House burned down in 1971. A lot of our dreams and hopes went up in smoke with the Opera House — because it was really the only theater in Cairo where ballet and opera could be presented properly. We missed the opera house. Something happened to cultural life — it seemed to wane terribly and the school and all these institutes, ballet and so on — all went downhill.

Q. What did you think of the recent performances of "Aida" at Luxor and the pyramids?

A. Both had their merits and demerits, but to use an Americanism, it was a happening not to be missed. The media build-up created an intense interest in opera among people who are normally not that interested. The tickets put a lot of people outside the pale; they couldn't afford the price. So what happened was, when they announced a free dress rehearsal just before the opening night, thousands of people tramped out to the pyramids to see what it was. If there had been some sort of follow-up on that it would have had great cultural and educational value. As it was, of course that night was very unfortunate, they were having all sorts of heesee, the director and leading tenor had a fight, they were one and a half or two hours late starting — people got fed up and left. Anyway it was an indication of just how interested people can get in that kind of an event.

Q. But aren't ballet and opera alien to Egyptian culture?

A. We've had, often culture here since the French expedition, and that's almost two centuries now. We're a nation that has been awfully capable throughout our long history of absorbing foreign culture — everybody and their uncle has come over here at some point and just merged and there always seems to be room for more.

Ballet enjoys great popularity, you'd be surprised. Everybody seems to say these arts are not

Egyptian, and so on, but when you see the people who turn out — and they're not only foreign educated people — there's also a sort of grass-roots audience which is very appreciative. Go to the Ballon Theater anytime they have these rare performances of Russian ballet, the place is filled. And that's without much planning and publicity on the part of the promoters. It gets known just by word of mouth. When we had our own local Cairo ballet and opera seasons we were sold out. I don't think we do the audience credit.

It's not too much of a cultural trauma, maybe we could enjoy a dual cultural life. I do — I'm very much involved in traditional Egyptian art. I also very much enjoy Western art — any kind of art. It's a matter of education, really, and exposure.

Now we're hoping that the possibility of performance in a truly magnificent theater will encourage a revival of these arts, especially since there is an awful lot of talent. I'm glad some dancers will have the opportunity to start a career in this place.

Q. How can you make tickets to the center cheap enough for it to be accessible to everybody?

A. There's a lot of debate about that. The one thing we want to do, whatever the policy, is not to exclude anybody. At the same time, of course, it's a bit of headache because of the cost of running the place. I have an idea that we could turn to a system of private patronage — there are a great many very wealthy people in Egypt and it would persuade them to donate to the arts — support the arts like they do in the US — that could probably be a major contribution to the budget. At least, I hope so, because we cannot run a place like this on a shoestring.

Q. How will you go about programming?

A. I propose that we be very flexible in our approach both in administration and in the activities programming. Anyway, we shall try not to limit ourselves to the pedestrian approach — traditional, conservative, and finally dull. (laughs).

Q. Will Japan take part in performances at the center?

A. We owe Japan an immense debt of gratitude for the lovely building. It was built by means of a very generous grant from the government of Japan and it's a monument — if I wanted to sound pompous, I'd say to international co-operation on a truly magnificent scale. Usually international aid is limited to much more "practical" things as if culture were in some way impractical. I really don't agree with that at all. I think it's as necessary to feed the spirit as to feed the body, but we seem to forget about that aspect of things altogether.

We still intend to open in October 1988. We have to outdo the Khedive somehow, look at the show he put on! We must put on something absolutely spectacular and I don't mean only inside the theater, but also out in the surrounding area, and we'll have to build up to it tremendously. I want it to be a sort of international media event. We hope that Japan will share the honor with Egypt of an opening for light. As far as I can see now, and it's very early on in planning, but perhaps a gala program of traditional Egyptian and Japanese arts and then mixed programmes. We have one meeting point which is Western art, which we hope to share.

THE JERUSALEM STAR 13



# Hakawati's tale of dispersal and return

By Maureen All  
Special to The Star  
LONDON — El Hakawati, the Palestinian theatre group, is on the road again with its latest play, "The Story of Kufur Shammam," an allegorical tale about the dispersal of the Palestinians and life in the diaspora.

The main character, Walid (Habil El Hajjar), returns home from Cairo after three long years. A BA in hand and suitcase heavy with gifts for his family, he anticipates a joyous homecoming. Instead, his village has been razed and only the ruins of the old remains as witness to its existence. Walid vows to track down the rest of the inhabitants and bring them back to rebuild their lives.

Accompanied by Kownsh (Amir Kholid), he embarks on an Odyssey which takes him to Lebanon, Kuwait, and even the United States in a futile quest to reassemble Kufur Shammam's population. The play opens up six lost-for-travellers finally return. They recount their tale.

As always, El Hakawati presents its story through a blend of mime, folklore and allegory. On tour, dialogue is delivered in a mixture of Arabic and English, with the occasional use of subtitles. The set is sparsely furnished, with a skeleton of a tree, leaning doors, tissue paper and snail.

Everything is absolutely basic and refreshingly inventive. Using masks, minimal costume changes and adaptable props, the actors tackle a series of roles to convey traditional village life, followed by the shock of dispersal.

At home, in the occupied territories, the play lasted nearly four hours. On the European tour, it has been pared down to just under three hours which may account for a certain disjointedness, with sudden breaks in the narrative line. This is not serious enough to spoil the overall continuity of the performance and is simply compensated for by the inventiveness of the staging and the quality of the acting.

With the help of a few paper bags, a handful of stones and an empty plastic drum, the stage is instantly transformed into a stone quarry. With the erection of a single piece of khaki cloth and the

dimming of lights, the drooniness of a refugee camp becomes apparent.

To the strains of Frank Sinatra and with the symbolic last-minute donning of kellys, the Palestinian community in Amman assembles to greet a visitor from the "old country." El Hakawati continues to mature and charm the international audience while retaining an essential simplicity in appeal to the local one.

Founded in the West Bank in 1977 under the directorship of Francois Abu Salam, El Hakawati set out to create its own audience using a combination of knockabout comedy and political rhetoric. Though its style has been compared to the Commedia dell'Arte and Brecht, it also links to Arab traditions as the name El Hakawati (storyteller) implies.

Its ability to entertain and inform without recourse to difficult dialogue is an essential ingredient of the Hakawati approach. In some ways, it can be seen as a preserver of cultural traditions, portraying as it does, aspects of day to day Palestinian life, some of which are threatened with extinction.

In the last 11 years the troupe has survived the machinations of the Israeli authorities and its own divisive internal political conflicts which caused splits within the group in the past.

Initially the players followed an itinerant lifestyle performing in villages schools and refugee camps all over the West Bank. A permanent base was established when El-Hakawati took over the abandoned Nuzhal cinema in east Jerusalem in 1983 and converted it into a viable theatre and cultural centre for the West Bank.

Several international and local tours brought El Hakawati to the attention of foreign and Arab critics. In West Germany, their performance was described as "lively, bubbling and above all interesting visual theater."

In France, Le Monde described El Hakawati's work as "an eminently political theatre, conceived as a form of resistance that blends allegory, force and satire." In the UK, one critic wrote, "El Hakawati have consolidated their reputation both internationally and at home as masters of theatre high in excitement and sharp in political comment."

During the last UK tour, however, the critics seemed acutely aware of the fact that El Hakawati, by choice or necessity, had lost much of its political bite. The circumstances surrounding the destruction of Kufur Shammam are barely alluded to. The farcical hardly got a mention. The present situation in the occupied territories is of no relevance. Instead the play focuses on the attitude of the Palestinians to their country.

Not everybody shares Walid's dream of going back. When he finally tracks down his brother's old servant, now living in Kuwait, the man tries to have him arrested. When he ultimately discovers a group of relatives comfortably assimilated in Massachusetts, they share for a moment his dream of The Return, but simply wish him luck in his ex-ecution.

It is an approach which is not likely to invoke the wrath of the Israeli censor, but nor will it win over those who have already accused El Hakawati of being too critical of its own people.

Writing collectively, the group (which includes one Jewish member, Jackie Luback) seeks to balance criticism and self-criticism in order to gain a new perspective. Two years ago in "The Story of the Eye and the Tooth," for example, both Arabs and Israelis were shown as fallible. Defending El Hakawati, one actress said: "Without first achieving freedom within our society, we can never fight the Israelis."

Dealing with the Israelis has never been easy for El Hakawati.



Simple props transform the stage into different settings

well and securing permission to perform a new play or to arrange a local tour is a problem. The establishment of the Nuzhal theatre was an important landmark in the group's career but local tours are still important. The needs and reactions of this audience must be balanced against the demands of the Israeli.

It took two years before one show "All the Gallies" was allowed to go on tour. Permission to perform "Mahjoub" was withdrawn at the last minute and was only restored after protest from Jewish journalists and intellectuals. The rehearsals for "The Story of the Eye and the Tooth" were interrupted by a visit from the Israeli secret police.

Having got the shows on the road, there is the local audience to deal with. El Hakawati's "In the Name of the Father, the Mother and Son," which is critical of the role of

women in Palestinian society, was not well received. On the other hand, "All the Gallies," which charts the breakdown of a young Palestinian suffering from an identity crisis, unable to decide whether to try to assimilate into Israeli society or remain Palestinian, provoked a more sympathetic response.

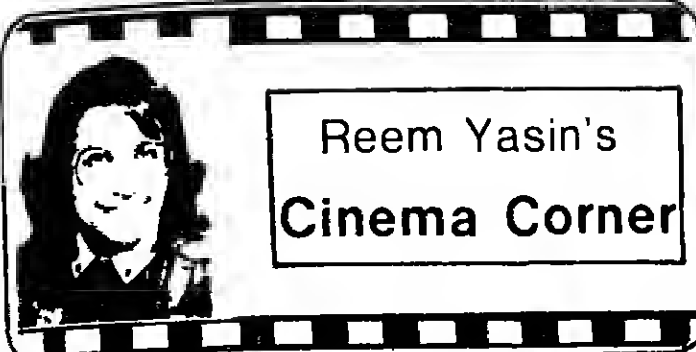
Other plays like "1001 Nights of a Stonethrower" and "Mahjoub Mahjoub," which take up the theme of life under occupation, struck a special chord with West Bankers when they performed a few years ago. Today such plays would hardly be tolerated by the Israelis.

Which is why, perhaps, El-Hakawati has turned its attention to the Palestinians outside Israel and why it has chosen to resort more to metaphorical references. As one British critic put it: "While remaining entirely accessible, El-Hakawati have gone into code."

low-budget approach of foreign film makers. Of 300 directors nominated for best director in Oscar history, only nine have been nominated for foreign-language films.

One foreign director who has bridged the artistic gap between Europe and Hollywood is Louis Malle of France, whose "Au Revoir les Enfants," a poignant autobiographical story involving his relationship as a youngster to a Jewish classmate who was seized by the Gestapo, was nominated for best foreign-language film but lost to Gabriel Axel's "Babette's Feast." Malle, who has lived in New York for the last decade, makes both English- and French-language films. Still, his style, in which he likes to retain strong central control of a small crew, often clashes with the grander imperatives of Hollywood, with its unloved and large budgets.

He says it took him six months to raise the paltry \$400,000 he needed for "My Dinner With André." By contrast, he went on, "In Hollywood you find \$40 million in five minutes for a project that sometimes I don't understand."



Reem Yasin's Cinema Corner

## Oscar time in Hollywood

EARLY SPRING is Oscar time in Hollywood. At about the same time every year the eyes of film buffs all over the world focus on the capital of cinema as the Academy Awards are announced and presented for noteworthy achievements in the world of film.

The glittering gold-plated statuette of "Oscar," the dream of almost all who work in the movie business, is still considered as the most important award in the film world. It is bestowed by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for remarkable cinematic achievements not only in acting, directing or writing for the silver screen, but also several other activities relevant to making a movie a real work of art.

This year's Academy Award ceremony, held on 11 April, was the sixtieth celebration of the occasion. As usual with all previous ceremonies the results had been greatly anticipated, and the nominees well known. Among the films that featured largely on the nomination list had been: "Broadcast News," "Moonstruck," "The Last Emperor," "Fatal Attraction," "The Hope and the Glory" and "Well Street."



Michael Douglas wins Best Actor in "Wall Street"

Of these films, "Moonstruck" won three Oscars: best supporting actress award given to Cher, best supporting actress award won by Olympia Dukakis as well as the award for best original screenplay. Directed by Norman Jewison (who was also nominated for best director award), the film is an ethnic comedy about an Italian-American family facing problems of romance. "Moonstruck" was also nominated for Best Picture award but lost it to "The Last Emperor," the film that reaped most of this year's Academy Awards.

"The Last Emperor," directed by the Italian Bernardo Bertolucci managed to win all of its nine nominations among which are the prestigious awards for best picture and best director. Starring John Lone, Peter O'Toole and Joan Chen, the film is a historical drama based on the life of Pu Yi, child-emperor deposed of his status when China became a republic in 1912, later made puppet-emperor of Manchuria by the Japanese in the Thirties, imprisoned and "re-educated" by the communists in the Fifties and finally freed in 1980 to work as a gardener in Peking until his death in 1967.

With a cost of over twenty million dollars, "The Last Emperor" presents the best of Bertolucci. The film also won its maker the award of the Director's Guild of America only a month before it got him the much coveted and dreamed of Oscar.



Your TV guide

Channel 2

## French Programmes

**Saturday**  
5:45 Le Chevalier de Par-dailon: Father and son continue their adventures with help from their friend Jon.  
7:00 The News in French.  
7:15 Sports Bloopers

**Sunday**  
8:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series.  
8:30 L'ecole des Fans: This week's guest: Alain Chantrel.  
7:00 News in French.  
7:15 Science — "La Communication".

**Monday**  
6:00 Louis XI: The last episode.  
7:00 The News in French.  
The weekly sports magazine.

**Tuesday**  
8:00 Les Chiffres et Les Lettres, a quiz show.  
6:30 Lucky Luke is to guard a wagon load of gold to San Francisco, but the secret slips out.  
7:00 The News in French.  
7:15 Le Monde Selon Georges: A documentary "The World According to Georges."

**Wednesday**  
6:00 Les Miserables — eps 2  
7:00 The News in French.  
7:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie, a local magazine produced and presented by Saleh Med.

**Thursday**  
8:00 Rue Carnot, a drama series.  
6:30 The Magical World of Chantal Goya, a series for children.  
7:00 The News in French.  
7:15 Sports Bloopers

**Friday**  
5:30 French Feature Film: "Pas de Problème" — It Daniel had picked up Anita as planned, she wouldn't have found a dying man on her doorstep... but then she wouldn't have met Jean Pierre.  
7:00 The News in French.  
7:15 Le Magazine Sirocco: Nimen II, the greatest French bull fighter.

## English Programmes

**Saturday**  
8:30 Yes, Prime Minister "Power of the People"  
9:00 Saturday Variety Show.  
10:00 News in English

10:20 Future Film: "Turning Point" Shirley MacLaine and Anne Bancroft are two old rivals squabbling over the artistic soul of a young dancer. The question, as always, is whether to dance or love. With Mikhail Baryshnikov as the Russian dancer.

**Sunday**  
8:30 My husband and I: On the Carpet.  
9:10 Documentary: "World in Flames" — roles of the key players in World War II.  
10:00 News in English  
10:20 O'Hara  
11:10 Rich Man, Poor Man.

**Monday**  
8:30 Perfect Strangers — a young man is visited by his strange cousin from a distant land in this new comedy series.

9:10 Secret Army  
10:00 News in English  
10:20 Feature Film: "Death Wish I" — Charles Bronson in a violent tale of crime and revenge set in New York City.

**Tuesday**  
8:30 No Place Like Home  
9:10 Standby — Light! Camera! Action

10:00 News in English  
10:20 Muider She Wrote: This week's episode takes Jessica to the circus.  
11:30 Rich Man, Poor Man.

**Wednesday**  
8:30 New Series: "The Spectacular World of Guinness Records" the biggest, the wildest, the most incredible people, facts and figures.  
9:00 Hooperman.  
9:30 Tales of the Unexpected.

10:00 News in English  
10:20 Napoleon and Josephine: Napoleon declares himself Emperor of France but Josephine is unable to produce an heir and he is forced to divorce her. But without her his victories turn to defeats.

**Thursday**  
8:30 Charlie Chaplin: the original films have been improved by new production techniques.  
9:10 Wish me luck  
10:20 Feature Film: Samantha Egger is the "Lady in the Car" who gets involved in murder and intrigue as she drives through France.



Samantha Egger

**Friday**  
8:30 Growing Pains: "Dance Fever, Part II"  
9:10 Magnum.  
10:00 News in English  
10:20 Falcon Crest.  
11:10 Rich Man Poor Man.

By Robert Rainhold  
New York Times Service

FROM THE beginning, Hollywood has welcomed foreigners. The first Academy Award for best actor 60 years ago went to a German, Emil Jannings, and the parade of directors fleeing Nazi Europe — Billy Wilder, Michael Curtiz, Ernst Lubitsch, Fred Zinneman — certainly enriched the American postwar film industry. Then, of course, there was the venerated Alfred Hitchcock, who was British.

Nonetheless, the glittery crowd gathering for the 60th annual Academy Awards ceremony found it remarkable that all five nominees for best director were non-Americans. It is the first time that this has happened.

"I'm not surprised at this example of non-chauvinism," said Bernardo Bertolucci, the Italian who directed "The Last Emperor," which won Oscars in nine categories. "I think it's great."

The others nominated were two Britons, Adrian Lyne ("Fatal Attraction") and John Boorman ("Hope and Glory"), a Canadian,

## International flavour at Oscars



Oscar winners from four countries: From left, Michael Douglas, Gabriel Axel, Sean Connery and Bernardo Bertolucci.

Norman Jewison ("Moonstruck"), and a Swede, Lasse Hallstrom ("My Life as a Dog").

The American directors are not happy about this, but accept it, said George Schaefer, chairman of the theatre, film and television department at the University of California in Los Angeles and himself director of more than 240 film, television and theatre productions.

Curiously, the studio executives who acted as midwife for two of the nominees for best picture — "Hope and Glory"

and "The Last Emperor" — was John Putnam, a Briton who was dismissed as chairman of Columbia Pictures.

Many Hollywood leaders, like Charles Powell, a governor of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, saw evidence that the academy was not a cliché. "Hollywood likes to see itself as an international film capital," he said. "This is not a new sensation."

Perhaps too much can be made of the foreign nominations. Except for Hallstrom's entry, all

four films are major studio releases in the English language, although "The Last Emperor" was shot in Chinese and financed with \$25 million from a consortium of European merchant bankers. Some say it was just happenstance that all were foreign-born directors.

Still, the selections raise interesting questions about the growing internationalization of the movie industry and about the historic tension between the dominant big budget popular Hollywood ethic and the more artistic



Death Wish is Monday's Feature Film

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